

Chapters Twenty-Two and Twenty-Three

Standards Focus: Conflict

One of the most important elements of any type of literature is the development of conflict. **Conflict** is when a character or characters face a struggle or challenge. Without conflict, the reader or audience says, "Who cares?" Just as in our lives we face conflict, so do the characters in great literature. There are four main types of conflict that a character or characters may face within a work of literature:

- **man versus man**- the character faces a conflict/struggle with another character in the story
- **man versus himself**- the character faces a major decision or a physical or emotional struggle with his own morals, ethics, or conscience
- **man versus nature**- a character faces the forces of nature, such as weather or natural environment
- **man versus society**- a character faces a conflict with the social, political, or religious forces of society

Directions: Read each of the following situations or quotes from Chapters 22-23. In example a., identify the type of conflict, then who or what is involved in the conflict. Remember, in order for there to be a conflict, there must be two or more forces that oppose each other. Be sure to identify each of those forces in example b. There may be more than one possible answer for each.

1. Atticus tells Jem: "I don't know, but they did it. They've done it before and they did it tonight and they'll do it again and when they do it—seems that only children weep."

a. Type of Conflict: _____

b. Conflicting Forces: _____

2. Jem tells Miss Maudie: "It's like bein' a caterpillar in a cocoon, that's what it is...Like somethin' asleep wrapped up in a warm place. I always thought Maycomb folks were the best in the world, least that's what they seemed like."

a. Type of Conflict: _____

b. Conflicting Forces: _____

3. "It was Miss Stephanie's pleasure to tell us: this morning Bob Ewell stopped Atticus on the post office corner, spat in his face, and told him he'd get him if it took the rest of his life."

a. Type of Conflict: _____

b. Conflicting Forces: _____

4. Aunt Alexandra says to Scout "I'll tell you why...because he—is—trash, that's why you can't play with him. I'll not have you around him, picking up his habits and learning Lord-knows-what. You're enough of a problem to your father as it is."

a. Type of Conflict: _____

b. Conflicting Forces: _____

5. Jem says to Scout: "I think I'm beginning to understand something. I think I'm beginning to understand why Boo Radley's stayed up in the house all this time...it's because he wants to stay inside."

a. Type of Conflict: _____

b. Conflicting Forces: _____